

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ECRE, MEPD, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN ARMY SEEKS AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN
CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

REF: LAGOS 9414

1. NIGERIAN ARMY HAS MADE URGENT REQUEST TO EMBASSY FOR AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT AS PRINCIPAL DESIGNER, BUILDER AND SUPERVISOR OF LARGE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (.MOD) CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM. IN "CONFIDENTIAL" WORDS OF ARMY QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, FMG IS COMMITTED TO TURN GOVERNMENT OVER TO CIVILIAN RULE IN 1979, AND CRUCIAL GOAL IS TO HAVE MILITARY PROPERLY HOUSED AND QUARTERED BEFORE THAT EVENT. ON STRENGTH OF RECENT U.S. RESPONSE TO ARMY'S TRANSPORT NEEDS (REFTEL) AND KNOWN U.S. EXPERTISE IN CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING, ARMY PREFERS THAT FOREIGN PARTICIPATION BE EXCLUSIVELY AMERICAN.

2. ARMY REQUESTS FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN ASAP: (A) DEPT OF COMMERCE SHOULD SELECT AND NOTIFY U.S. FIRMS WHICH ARE SKILLED IN MODULAR AND PREFABRICATED HOUSING CONSTRUCTION AND OVERALL MANAGEMENT FOR BUILDING PROGRAM FOR 3-4 YEAR PERIOD; (B) EMBASSY WILL THEN BRIEF FIRMS INDIVIDUALLY AND ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH MOD; (C) MOD WILL INTERVIEW FIRMS AND AWARD CONTRACT.

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3. U.S. PRESENCE IN NIGERIA'S BOOMING CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

CONSPICUOUSLY WEAK. GOOD SHOWING IN THIS PROJECT COULD
PROVIDE BADLY NEEDED EXAMPLE OF AMERICAN INTEREST AND ABILITY.

4. FOR THE MOMENT WE HAVE ONLY CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF MOD
CONSTRUCTION PLANS, BUT WILL TRANSMIT MORE DETAILED
INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. MOD INDICATES THAT PROJECT
WILL BE VERY LARGE AND THAT CONSULTING FIRM
WHICH IS CHOSEN WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ROLE IN SHAPING ITS
DIMENSIONS. EASUM

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